∴ DK-US040366

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tadashi SAO et al.

Serial No New-Nat'l phase of

PCT/JP2005/009451

International filing date: May 24, 2005

For:

BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND

AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED:

THEREWITH (As Amended)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff Reg. No. 32,383

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036 (202)-293-0444

Dated:

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINES THROUGH 14.4 (101/28/2009)

2010 4 2010 4 2010 4 2010 4 2010 4 2010 20

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Application Number PC U 20 5 50 451 Q 0 5 50 Q 0 5

DK-US040366

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Applicant of Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Document Number Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY Examiner Cite No.1 Cited Document Initials Number - Kind Code2 (if known) Figures Appear US: บร US-US-ÚS-US-US-USusus-ÚS-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	_T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No
		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No
···	 	JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes
		JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes
	 	JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes
		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes
	_					

			01/00/000
Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (01/28/2009)	Date Considered	01/28/2009

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		
	Application Number	PCT/\$P2005/069454
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO
	Group Art Unit	

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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	OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Yes or No)			
/M.A./		1998 Cooling and Heating Installation Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.	No			
	1					
						
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Examiner Signature /Mohammad Ali/ (01/28/2009) Date Considered 01/28/2009

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